

The National Academy of Sciences found that about 18.7 percent of Americans 65 and older, or nearly 7.1 million, are suffering in poverty compared to 9.7 percent, or 3.7 million, under the traditional Census measure. This is largely due to out-of-pocket expenses from rising Medicare premiums, deductibles and a coverage gap in the prescription drug benefit.

The National Academy of Sciences also found that 14.3 percent of people 18 to 64, or 27 million, are suffering in poverty, compared to 11.7 percent under the traditional Census measure. Many of the additional poor are low-income, working people facing growing transportation and childcare costs.

It should also be noted that food stamp assistance, which is at an all-time high of about 36 million, likely softened these figures.

These figures are especially troubling and could get worse. In 2008, U.S. median income fell to \$50,303 from \$52,163 in 2007. That 3.6% decline is the largest one-year drop since records began. And, the Economic Policy Institute projects that in the next two years, incomes could decline by another \$3,000 and poverty could increase by 1.9 percentage points.

These figures have special meaning for me because I represent one of the poorest Congressional districts in the country. In fact, a recent report in *Forbes* Magazine declared Rocky Mount, North Carolina as one of America's 10 most impoverished cities.

Forbes used the new data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2008 American Community Survey, and also looked at per capita incomes for a region, the percentage of food stamp recipients, the percentage of people under age 65 receiving public health care and the unemployment rate.

According to *Forbes*, nearly 8 percent of Rocky Mount area residents were among the nation's extreme poor in 2008, living at below 50 percent of the poverty line. And, about 17 percent of area residents received food stamps last year, and nearly 23 percent of residents under age of 65 received Medicaid. Also, Rocky Mount's unemployment rate at the time of the report was 8.7 percent and since has risen to 13.8 percent.

While *Forbes* also ranked Rocky Mount as the 119th best small places for business and careers, largely because of the city's available workforce, this is a region that suffers with a great number of needs. This is a community with great pride and potential that continues to work hard to provide opportunities and improve the quality of life for its residents.

As we look at ways to make sure our resources are going where they are needed most, we should look at the way poverty is measured. Unfortunately, the official U.S. poverty measure has changed very little since it was originally adopted in 1969, with the exception of annual adjustments for overall price changes in the economy, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers.

Currently, the poverty threshold reflects a measure of the economic realities of the mid-1950's. The poverty line has not been adjusted to reflect changes in needs associated with improved standards of living that have occurred over the decades since the measure was first developed.

A congressionally commissioned study conducted by the National Academy of Sciences

has recommended that the poverty level be reset to take into account economic changes that have occurred over the past four decades. The National Academy of Sciences recommended that non-cash benefits, taxes and tax credits be counted as income while expenses such as work-related child care, housing and out-of-pocket medical expenses be deducted from income in determining families' poverty status. As a result, comparatively more working families and elderly people would be counted as poor.

The National Academy of Sciences also recommended that the poverty income levels be adjusted for regional cost of living differences. The current poverty income thresholds are uniform across the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

The Measuring American Poverty Act of 2009 introduced by Representative MCDERMOTT and a companion bill introduced by Senator DODD would instruct the U.S. Census Bureau to adopt many of the modern poverty measurement recommendations made by the National Academy of Sciences. If adopted, the legislation would result in a new poverty measure that would coexist with the official poverty measure, and re-designate the current "official" measure as the "traditional" poverty measure. The new poverty measure would not affect programs that use poverty as criteria for either determining eligibility or allocating funds, but would stand as an additional statistical indicator to measure the effects of programs on poverty.

This would be a helpful step toward ensuring that we have a system that is fair to people who need help as well as to the taxpayers providing that help. This economic crisis serves as a reminder to all Americans just how vulnerable we all are, and that reducing our existing poverty will require a great deal of effort and attention.

IN MEMORIAM OF SPC KEVIN O. HILL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memoriam of Specialist Kevin O. Hill, a distinguished and honorable constituent of Brooklyn. He died on October 4, 2009 in Dehanna, Afghanistan and was a member of the 576th Engineer Company, 4th Engineer Battalion based in Fort Carson, Colorado. A third generation Military man, preceded by his father, Oslen, Jr. and his grandfather Oslen, Sr., Specialist Hill had dreams of being a Secret Service agent and felt that the military training and experience could only serve him well in pursuit of that goal.

He was a quiet leader, choosing to lead by example more often than words. After completing his education at Monroe College, Specialist Hill joined the Army. While in Afghanistan he worked with the Engineer Battalion to disable IEDs and roadside bombs before they could do harm to his fellow soldiers and the civilians that he was there to help.

His mother praised him as a hero, and I stand here to do the same. Specialist Hill paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country and my condolences go out to his mother, Mahalia

Hill, his father, Oslen Hill, his grandfather Oslen Hill, Sr., his sisters Chinyere and Shantel and his entire family in this time of grave loss. Our country is indebted to his family and we are all mourning their loss.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in remembering the dedication and selflessness of Specialist Kevin O. Hill.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3183—Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, for FY2010

Requesting Member: Congressman TOM COLE

Bill Number: H.R. 3183

Provision: Title III

Account: DOE—Science

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: "The University of Oklahoma"

Address of Requesting Entity: 660 Parrington Oval, Norman OK 73019

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of 1,000,000.00 to The University of Oklahoma (OU) for its technological advantage in the production of carbon nanotubes, via the use of a proprietary catalyst and a truly scalable production process, commercialized by an OU startup company (South-West Nanotechnologies, SWeNT). The Center for Applications of Single-Walled Carbon Nanotubes (CANTEC) investigates the applications of the SWNT produced in the CoMoCAT process in several important areas: biomedical applications (biosensors, cancer cell targets, and cancer therapeutics), polymer composites of unique electrical and mechanical properties, metal-nanotube composites, thermally conducting composites, transparent electrodes, solar cells, field emission devices, and thin film transistors.

BRIAN TAYLOR RECOGNITION

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the inspirational and uplifting story of Brian Taylor from the November 2009 issue of *SLAM* magazine. Brian Taylor is a true modern hero and example to the youth of America. Brian was a superstar basketball player at Princeton University and in the ABA and NBA. He had a great 10 year professional career, after which he became a teacher. He is now Head of Schools for View Park Schools, a charter school network in the inner city of Los Angeles, CA. View Park graduates 100% of its high school seniors, all of whom go on to college! Brian's personal story and the success of his charter school is a real life example of what can be accomplished with hard work,